



New Hampshire Senate NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Carole Alfano, Communications Director
carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us

Senate omnibus bill updating rules for several licensing boards now law

CONCORD, NH – A Senate omnibus bill (SB133) updating and bringing greater clarity to several state occupational licensing boards is now law. The prime sponsors made the following statements:

Sen. Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry) – *Part I – Places of Assembly*

“State law requires places of assembly of 100 people or more (50 or more if the place is a tent) to be licensed. Those licenses are issued by cities, towns, or village districts, but there are issues when a place of assembly is located in an unincorporated area. Now that SB 133 is law, the State Fire Marshall may issue a license for a place of assembly in situations where there is no local authority to do so. This is consumer-friendly and cuts down on confusion.”

Sen. Ruth Ward (R-Stoddard) – *Part III – Board of Nursing Hearings*

“This legislation came at the request of the New Hampshire Board of Nursing and deals with how hearings are held regarding allegations against a nurse. Going forward, any member of the Board of Nursing will be allowed to preside over a hearing and have the authority to put witnesses under oath. Previously, the public member of the board was not allowed to do either. This is an important change.”

Sen. John Reagan (R-Deerfield)

Part V - OPLC

“The Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) provides administrative support to over 40 professional licensing boards, commissions, and councils responsible for licensing and regulating their professions within the state. Sometimes licensing boards are reluctant to meet and make decisions. This can be frustrating because more and more pieces of the administration of certain professions have been transferred to the OPLC. Now, the OPLC itself has the power to streamline hearings and disciplinary proceedings. By centralizing the process, each board retains its same regulatory and statutory oversight, and no board’s authority is diminished.”

Part VIII – Cosmetology Programs

“This is a small, but much needed technical fix regarding cosmetology programs at high schools. The OPLC licenses these private and public school programs, but the Cosmetology Board has the authority to regulate programs in high school. SB 131 clarifies that distinction.”

Sen. Erin Hennessey (R-Littleton) – ***Part VI – LNA’s***

“During the height of the pandemic, and under the state’s Emergency Order 42, temporary health partners were allowed to go into long-term care facilities after 10 hours of training to assist the facility in meeting their needs. Now that SB 133 is law, individuals who served as a temporary health partners under the emergency order are allowed to transition to an LNA without having to go through the traditional LNA process. This legislation becoming law could not be timelier due to the current shortage of LNA’s at long-term care facilities across the state.”

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